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The Gazette

EARLY ED.

TOMORROW

MAGAZINE

Writer returns to find Montreal's glory days

After the better part of a decade in California, Montreal writer Juan Rodriguez returns to a city that often thinks it's in decline. What he finds is the only real Latin city north of the Rio Grande — tempestuous, flirtatious, preening, orgasmic, hyperbolic, anarchic and incestuous. These are, he writes in the inaugural issue of *The Gazette* Magazine, Montreal's glory days.

xPRESS

Breaking into business

With the amount of downsizing and restructuring in companies, it's no wonder so many young people are going into business for themselves. We talk to some young entrepreneurs who have taken the plunge, and are loving it.

MONDAY

BUSINESS

Check the Fine Print

The Fine Print column brings you up to date on people who are making news in the city's business world. Plus, expanded business-calendar listings, and all our regular features, including Peter Hadekel, with his In the Markets column.

LOTTERIES

Winning numbers
Friday, 97/04/18

Mini-Loto	Super 7
506976 wins $50,000	9-11-17-20-23-24-37
06976 wins $5,000	Bonus: 35
6976 wins $250	Extra
976 wins $25	0-4-8-5-1-1
76 wins $5	Banco
50697 wins $1,000	8-14-16-18-21-29-36
5069 wins $100	39-43-46-48-49-50
506 wins $10	53-55-56-59-60-66-67
La Quotidienne-3	La Quotidienne-4
6-1-0 (in order)	1-2-9-7 (in order)

For tonight's results, call The Gazette **QuickLine** after 11 p.m. at **555-1234**, category **5686**. Each call costs 50 cents. In the event of a discrepancy between this list and the official winning list, the latter shall prevail.

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PAGE TWO COLUMN

Shift right, into Bloc Mess

JOSH FREED

Election fever is sweeping the nation's capital where politicians and reporters are in a frenzy over the likely federal vote.

Fortunately, the virus hasn't crossed the Ottawa River to infect the rest of us.

After a long hard winter, most of us need a spring break and a break from politics – and so far we haven't had much of either. The last thing we want is an election campaign and I suspect most of us will ignore it.

Maybe that's part of the Liberal's secret strategy. They know that Canadians might pay attention to the issues if an election was held in the fall.

But if it takes place on a sunny June day, only the 295 MPs and their families will bother to go vote. And since most MPs are Liberals, they'll win an easy majority.

Sorry if I sound cynical, but I can't remember an election where I've been less interested in the parties or their leaders. Last time we voted, there was an excellent reason to go to the polls – to get rid of the Tories. This time the only reason to hold one is because the Liberals have run out of promises to break and need some new ones for the next four years.

The only issue that really matters – the future of the country – doesn't seem to be on anyone's agenda. No one feels like talking about it – so I guess we won't.

If the election is announced and the campaign picks up steam, you may notice the political spectrum has shifted since the last time you voted.

Today, it's hard to tell which party stands for what. If the consumer labeling law applied to politics here's how the parties would be presented.

The Liberal Conservatives: Last election, the Liberals were Liberals, attacking big business and defending social programs.

Today, they're Conservatives wearing Liberal clothing.

They got elected by denouncing free trade and the GST and now embrace both. They talk constantly about jobs, jobs, jobs, but most people I know are losing theirs and the jobs that are being created pay $7 an hour.

They are slashing the CBC and social programs more than the Conservatives ever dared, but unlike the Conservatives they say they regret it more. The truth is that Paul Martin is the best Tory finance minister the Liberals have ever had.

The Progressive Charest Party: Now that the Liberals have become Conservatives, the Conservatives don't know what they're supposed to be.

As the election nears, they look like a leader without a party.

The party's name is practically impossible to find even on its own official party program – which features 60 pages of "Jean Charest's plan for Canada in the 21st century."

To prove they're just as Conservative as the Liberals, the party has reached into their distant past and demanded the abolition of gun control.

What else can they do to prove their Conservative colors – abolish the seat-belt law? Restore the Union Jack? Bring back conscription?

I hope not. It would be nice to see them or the NDP back in the official opposition benches, but that may take a miracle.

With only two seats in Parliament, the Conservative Party is so small that Jean Charest's wife is said to be sleeping with half the Tory caucus.

The Reform Republicans: These guys are the GOP of Canada – with bad haircuts.

The Liberals believe we should slash Canadian social programs to reduce the deficit, but Reform believes we should slash them because suffering builds character.

If you take a welfare mom off welfare, she'll start her own company. And if she can't find work in her own province, there are plenty of good Canadian jobs around – in Mexico.

Reform's national unity policy seems equally generous. They believe Quebec French is one of Canada's official languages, along with English, Newfoundland English, Prairie English, Ontario English, Vancouver Island English and a rainbow of other important English-speaking dialects.

And if you'd like to obtain a French translation of that, go live in France.

The ND-PC: With so many parties acting like Conservatives, this is the NDP's chance to appeal to disillusioned Liberal voters.

But the party hasn't spruced up its image since it fought the industrial revolution. The campaign hasn't even started, but they've already conceded they can't win and will be happy to settle for more seats.

Unlike Britain's Labour Party, the NDP usually prefers purity to victory. They were decimated in the last election partly because their leader was too bland, so they've replaced her with a bland new leader.

So far, it's hard to tell the two apart.

The Bloc Mess Monster: Say what you want about these guys, but they certainly act like the opposition. They don't just oppose the government, they oppose the country – and they'll do battle over absolutely any issue. They're fighting for Quebec's sovereign right to keep cigarette advertising and create floating casinos on the St. Lawrence. They're insisting on the right to deny rights to anyone wearing a motorcycle-gang badge.

If Ottawa ever proposed the same anti-motorcycle gang law the Bloc is demanding, Gilles Duceppe would accuse Canada of acting like the former Soviet Union.

If the Bloc loses its status as her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, they'll say Canadian voters have "ganged up" to humiliate Quebec. But with less than two months to go to the likely vote, the Bloc may yet humiliate Canada instead.

How?

Imagine what could happen if the Bloc wins most of Quebec's 75 seats and the other four parties split the remaining 236 seats.

Gilles Duceppe would become the prime minister of Canada, and move to dissolve Parliament – forever.

Traffic watchers say we're in for trouble

ROADS
Continued from Page A1

One or two of the three lanes of the roadway will be closed nightly.

■ The Ville Marie and Viger tunnels, where lanes will be shut at night and on weekends.

■ Highway 25 from Montreal to Anjou, where eight overpasses will be repaired throughout the summer.

■ The Charles de Gaulle Bridge on Highway 40, off the eastern tip of the island. One span will be closed and two-way traffic will share the other span all summer.

■ Highway 440 in Laval between Industriel Blvd. and Highway 19. Replacement of concrete slabs will mean two-way traffic sharing one side of the highway all summer.

■ Highway 10 between Highway 30 and Milan Blvd. will be shut and traffic moved to the service road in July and August.

■ Reduced traffic flow on the St. Lambert approach to the Victoria Bridge all summer.

■ Closing of Desaulniers Blvd. in Longueuil to repair overpasses this summer and fall.

■ An array of lane closings at the Longueuil interchange of Highways 20, 25 and 132, and for the paving of Highway 132 on both sides of Highway 25, all summer.

As well, Quebec will begin preparatory work this fall on the dangerous Highway 20 intersections with Woodland Ave. and Morgan Rd. in the West Island. Minimal disturbance is expected there.

The bridges are already in turmoil. The federal government announced earlier this month that it would repair the Champlain and Jacques Cartier bridges to the South Shore and upgrade the Clément Bridge to Nuns' Island.

Work on the Champlain and Clément bridges has already begun.

The disruption on the roads will be so great that Transport 2000 spokesman Normand Parisien said this may be the summer that finally traumatizes commuters into jumping to public transit.

"People have to face the fact that we go from road repair season to winter, to road repairs. It's continuous," he said.

Traffic management consultant Ottavio Galella said the Montreal region needs to invest in a roads management scheme that would control traffic with tolls, facilitate carpooling and use road signs to direct people to free parking and public transit where there are regular tie-ups.

"We need a permanent plan, and quickly," he said.

Brassard told reporters his department has a plan to keep traffic disruptions to a minimum. But traffic reporter Rick Leckner said the Transport Department is not ready to deal with the impending chaos.

"How can they deal with all the slowdowns and the necessary lane blockages and stalls this summer if it takes an hour and forty-five minutes to two hours to remove a stalled truck right now?" he asked.

"Unless they pay very close attention and much more than they've done in the past, we're going to have a nightmare summer."

Quebec plans to spend a total of $472 million on transport and road repairs in the Montreal region this year.

Missing air-force plane fuels tense situation

DENVER
Continued from Page A1

"Yesterday, all the kids were saying, 'The A-10 is going to come back on Saturday and bomb Denver,'" Khalil Kingsbury, a tourist from Iowa, said of a Little League baseball practice he attended here with his son, a coach.

A few steps down the block, similar views came from Ron Cole, an intense man dressed in black jeans and black leather jacket. He was handing out press releases announcing the formation on April 19 of the "North American Liberation Army."

"Everybody in the militia movement is afraid that the A-10 is going to show up and bomb something," said Cole, whose leaflets were stamped with crossed automatic weapons. "Then, they are going to blame it on us, just like the Oklahoma bombing."

Shunning a sidewalk corral erected specially for protesters, Cole complained that police officers were harassing militia supporters in Colorado, arresting three on various charges since the trial started here March 31.

On Tuesday, the police arrested Don Emminger, 50, a militia supporter who had repeatedly driven past the courthouse in his battered pickup. The police found an unloaded .38 pistol in the truck, and Emminger was charged with violating a city ordinance against concealed weapons.

Protesting that his arrest was a violation of "First Amendment rights," Emminger, who dressed in black and sported a black beret, told reporters: "Just look at my truck." The truck's rear window is covered with right-wing bumper stickers, including "Sniper Bar and Grill – All you need is one shot," and "I have a dream," which showed a Confederate flag flying over the White House.

While some Americans celebrate April 19 as Earth Day, others revere it as Patriot's Day – the anniversary of the Revolutionary War battles of Lexington and Concord.

> **Many Americans mark Earth Day today, some mark Patriot's Day.**

Yesterday, this meaning of April 19 resonated at this corner of downtown Denver, undoubtedly one of the most videotaped stretches of pavement on the planet.

Concrete highway barriers girdle the courthouse and the adjoining federal building, which includes local offices for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. With sidewalks closed on three sides, people walking on the one open side – in front of the courthouse – are greeted by a sign, painted in red ink: "Pedestrian traffic only. No stopping, standing or loitering."

In the steel-and-glass office high-rises that loom around the four-storey courthouse, building managers have drilled tenants on how to handle telephoned bomb threats and on how to identify package bombs. Parking has been restricted, more guards have been hired, and buildings have been outfitted with closed-circuit television cameras that can rotate and zoom.

This week, Denver became the first of 26 cities scheduled to receive anti-terrorism training from Army teams specialized in chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Denver was chosen to be first, in part because of the bombing trial, in part because, in June, the city is to host the heads of state from eight world powers, know as "the Group of 8."

With 15,000 civilian federal employees, the largest concentration outside of Washington, Denver is sometimes called "Washington West."

Across the U.S., the General Services Administration has spent an estimated $200 million to tighten security around federal buildings in the two years since the bombing.

Polly Baca, regional administrator for the General Services Administration, unable to predict the future, said: "We're blessed that April 19 falls on a Saturday this year. Your normal federal employee doesn't work on a Saturday."

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: AP

Magazine section makes debut in Sunday paper

CHANGES
Continued from Page A1

We have rearranged some columns to get these codes into Sports Highlights and This Week's Movies. For a full explanation of how VCR Plus works, see Page C1. And as we have done in our weekday TV listings, we've added Tele Latino and TEQ Ethnic programming to our TV Times prime-time grids.

Tomorrow, look for our revamped Sunday paper, featuring the new Magazine section.

Mordecai Richler, internationally famous author and political observer, makes his debut as a weekly columnist in the Magazine section.

So does Joe Schwarcz, in a column called The Right Chemistry in which he'll answer everyday questions about the impact of science in our lives.

And Juan Rodriguez examines Montreal's and his own psyche in a compelling cover story about his return to his tempestuous home town after too many years in politically correct California.

We have restored the "OpEd" page in the Sunday paper and have moved Ed Bantey there, along with our weekly selection of editorial cartoons and other commentary.

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After five issues of the new-look *Gazette* we are very gratified by the response. We are hearing far more positive comment than negative and many of the negatives are about things we can fix. Basing our estimate on calls to InfoLine and calls to our offices, the response is about 70 per cent favourable. The adjectives we are hearing include "classic" and "classy," "authoritative" and "attractive," "appealing" and "eye-catching." Many of you like the content changes, too. You love the fact we've adopted some Canadian spellings and that we are turning most news stories to Page 2.

Of course there have been misses: our Index type was hard to read, so we have made it bolder, bigger and have done away with the all-capitals style. We are changing the titles on columns to make them easier to read and we're reshooting some of the photos that go with the columns. (Yes, Hilda Kearns's photo will be back next week.)

Some people are insisting that we have changed the main body typeface you are reading now. I can only give you my word that we haven't. Nor are we using a new kind of ink; and we've been using the same paper for some months.

Naturally some people are simply upset that we have changed their daily paper, and we understand that response. We only ask that you give it some time.

Many of you point out rightly that the change in the look is something you can assess quickly. It is the content that must be judged over time. We will continue to add new features, new writers and new attitude as we try to bring you a broader spectrum of opinions and reporting.

Stay tuned.

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